

TASK FORCE ON MARYLAND'S DAIRY INDUSTRYLewis R. Riley, *Co-Chair*Dennis C. Westhoff, Ph.D., *Co-Chair*

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The Task Force on Maryland's Dairy Industry was created within the Department of Agriculture in 1995 (Chapter 274, Acts of 1995). The Task Force is assessing the condition and long-term viability of Maryland dairy farming, and allied industries and services. Trends in production, processing, marketing, and land use that affect the dairy industry also will be evaluated. The Task Force is to recommend ways to improve Maryland's dairy industry, preserve farmland, and promote the consumption of dairy products. It also will review State law and regulations setting "sell-by" limits on dairy products. By January 1997, the Task Force will report to the Governor, the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee.

The Task Force has seventeen members. Nine are named by the Governor, two by the Senate President, two by the House Speaker. Four serve ex officio. Authorization for the Task Force ends June 30, 1997 (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 18-307).

BOARD OF REVIEWRoger L. Richardson, *Chair*, 1999

(410) 841-5882

The Board of Review hears and determines appeals from any decision of the Secretary of Agriculture or agency of the Department subject to judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, the Board's seven members serve three-year terms. The Governor names the chair (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-401 through 2-405).

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONA. Orrell Saulsbury III, *Chair*, 1996Laurie Adelhardt, *Executive Director*

(410) 841-5882

The Maryland Agricultural Commission was formed in 1961 as the Agricultural Advisory Board (Chapter 470, Acts of 1961). The Board was renamed the Maryland Agricultural Commission in 1968 (Chapter 552, Acts of 1968). The Commission's chief function is to advance Maryland agriculture and advise the Secretary of Agriculture on agricultural matters. The Commission proposes agricultural improvements, promotes State agricultural industries and products, and reviews legislation for its impact on agriculture.

The Commission consists of twenty-four members. Twenty-three are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. One serves ex officio (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 2-201 through 2-205).

DEPUTY SECRETARYHenry A. Virts, D.V.M., *Deputy Secretary*50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 841-5881

The Deputy Secretary oversees Aquaculture Development and Seafood Marketing, and Marketing and Agricultural Development. The Deputy Secretary also directs coordination of Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Programs.

CHESAPEAKE BAY AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMSThomas W. Simpson, *State Coordinator*

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With the Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1987, states in the Bay region will reduce nutrient loadings of phosphorous and nitrogen into the Bay by 40 percent by the year 2000. Working in tandem with farmers in Maryland, agricultural and natural resources agencies have developed a plan to curb nutrient runoff from farmland. The plan sets forth goals and actions needed to meet the commitments of the Bay Agreement.

Agriculture also is significant in the tributary focus of the Bay cleanup. The Department and its agricultural partners work with farmers across the State on nutrient reduction strategies for ten key tributary basins within the Chesapeake watershed.

**AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
& SEAFOOD MARKETING**Bradley H. Powers, *Director*50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Aquaculture, in Maryland, is an agricultural activity—the controlled cultivation and harvest of aquatic plants and animals. Aquaculture crops in the State include hybrid striped bass, tilapia, catfish, trout, crawfish, oysters, and soft-shell crabs.

The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 set forth the federal policy of encouraging development of an aquaculture industry. In 1988, the Department of Agriculture was designated to promote development of aquaculture and coordinate State efforts in this field (Chapter 534, Acts of 1988).

The Office of Aquaculture Programs was established by the Department in 1988 to coordinate the aquaculture programs of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Maryland System. In 1992, the Office was reorganized as Aquaculture Development and Seafood Marketing.

Seafood Marketing began in 1976 as an office within the Division of Economic Development under the Department of Economic and Community Development. In 1987, the Office of Seafood Marketing was transferred to the Department of